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Resolution 1953-06-18 Youth Conservation Programs

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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RESOLUTION NO. 4

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION

Resolved by the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners in annual convention at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, September 15, 1953:

We recognize that the future of America under our system of free enterprise hangs inevitably on soil and water conservation. Experience has demonstrated that the most effective way of promoting soil and water conservation on an adequate scale throughout the country is through continuing, strengthening, and expanding the present program now in operation by the U. S. Soil Conservation Service, working with the cooperation of the state soil conservation committees, soil conservation districts, and other local, state, and federal agencies, to provide necessary technical service to farmers for application of soil and water conservation practices on the land.

We appreciate the recognition given to this program by President Eisenhower in his message to Congress on July 31, 1953. We commend the previous statements made by Secretary of Agriculture Benson, emphasizing the importance of preserving and continuing the Soil Conservation Service as a separate action agency, independent of the Extension Service, which is primarily an educational agency. We believe that the opinions favoring maintenance of the Soil Conservation Service expressed by the farmer supervisors of soil conservation districts throughout the country, by an overwhelming vote, are entitled to great weight as the views of practical men having a large measure of responsibility for the administration of the program.

We recognize the outstanding contributions to the advancement of agriculture made through the years by the Extension Service as an educational agency. However, we know that an educational agency, while attending to its own important functions, cannot achieve maximum success in directing and executing an action program. The state agencies which we represent are engaged in a large and rapidly expanding program of projects for soil and water conservation and improvement of wildlife habitat. The success of these projects depends in large measure on the direct co-operation of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service and the soil conservation districts under established procedures. Any shifting of the responsibility for participation in this program as now effectively assumed by the Soil Conservation Service and the districts would tend to disturb and retard the execution of the program.

Therefore, while we favor any improvements in the organization or management of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service that will promote efficiency and economy, we earnestly oppose any measures that would impair the identity or responsibility of the service as an action agency, and we urge that the service be strengthened and supported and provided with all necessary means for the accomplishment of its vitally important mission.

RESOLUTION NO. 5

SURVEY OF WILDLIFE ECONOMICS

Whereas, there has been proposed an international survey of the economic importance of expenditures resulting from use of wildlife resources, said survey to be conducted individually by the states and provinces and summarized internationally in accordance with statistically reliable survey procedures, and in recognition of the great value to the states, provinces and national governments of such a survey and the importance of its conduct in a thorough and adequate manner:

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners in convention assembled at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, this 15th day of September 1953, that this association heartily endorses the principles of this survey, and urges its conduct on an international scale and to that end requests that the wildlife agencies of the Canadian, Mexican, and United States governments study this proposal with a view to their assuming responsibility for its coordination and summation within their respective countries, and upon completion of their study, refer the proposal with appropriate recommendations for its conduct to the executive committee of this association for further action.

RESOLUTION NO. 6

YOUTH CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Be it resolved by the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners in annual convention at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, September 15, 1953, that the association is pleased to note the

increasing interest and activity in conservation shown by the youth programs of various organizations, including the Boy Scouts of America, the 4-H Clubs, the Future Farmers of America, and the Izaak Walton League, and directs its officers and members to do all that they properly can to cooperate with these organizations to encourage such youth programs.

RESOLUTION NO. 7

REVIEW OF FEDERAL PROJECTS LEGISLATION

Whereas many of our most important flood control, hydroelectric, navigation, irrigation, and reclamation projects were authorized by appropriate competent legislative authorities before the future wildlife and recreational needs were fully envisioned. Many of these projects today are not serving their maximum multipurpose benefits. In order to correct these deficiencies appropriate new or amendatory legislation is needed.

Therefore be it resolved by the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners in annual convention at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, September 15, 1953, that this association requests federal, state and provincial governments to review the legislation authorizing the various flood control, hydroelectric, navigation, irrigation and reclamation projects, and to make such corrections and improvements as may be found necessary to assure maximum future fish, wildlife, and public recreational benefits.

RESOLUTION NO. 8

ADMINISTRATION OF PUBLIC LANDS

Whereas the administration of the public lands used for livestock grazing is now under the jurisdiction of two separate and distinct agencies of the federal government; and

Whereas under the administrative reorganization program the President is empowered to consolidate these agencies in the interests of economy and more efficient administration; and

Whereas the record of administration of the Forest Service under the Department of Agriculture in the administration of the forest lands has been long tested by experience and has been proven satisfactory:

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners in annual convention at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, September 15, 1953, that in the event of consolidation of administration of the public lands, these lands be placed in the custodianship of the Department of Agriculture for administration by the Forest Service.

RESOLUTION NO. 9

LOWER KLAMATH-TULE LAKE WATERFOWL AREA

Whereas the Klamath-Tule Lake Basin constitutes one of the most essential and strategically located waterfowl areas within the Pacific Flyway, and is of vital importance to the future maintenance of the migratory waterfowl resource of the flyway; and

Whereas through reclamation and other water and land use programs the important waterfowl habitat of this basin has been reduced to a small fraction of its original size; and

Whereas the waterfowl using this area are of tremendous international economic importance; and

Whereas the recent directive of the Secretary of the Interior would further reduce the nesting and resting areas of this basin to an alarmingly small area:

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners in annual convention at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, September 15, 1953, that this association is opposed to such further loss of waterfowl habitat, and does most earnestly and vigorously urge the Department of the Interior to seek congressional action through the enactment of appropriate legislation which will adequately protect the remaining key waterfowl areas of the Lower Klamath and Tule Lake Refuge for primary development and use for the maintenance of the waterfowl resource of the Pacific Flyway.

RESOLUTION NO. 10

MILITARY ESTABLISHMENTS

Whereas the creation and maintenance of military establishments has to a very considerable degree eliminated the right of public use of these establishments for purposes of hunting and fishing; and